



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

					
Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT03-114	FOR FURTHER ACT	rion	See Form PCT/IPEA/416		
International application No.	International filing date	(day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)		
PCT/JP2003/013455	22 October 2003	(22.10.2003)	23 October 2002 (23.10.2002)		
International Patent Classification (IPC) or n H04N 5/265, 1/387, G06T 3/00	national classification and	IPC			
Applicant MATSU	SHITA ELECTRIC I	INDUSTRIAL C	O., LTD.		
This report is the international prelir Authority under Article 35 and trans	minary examination report smitted to the applicant ac	t, established by this cording to Article 36	International Preliminary Examining 5.		
2. This REPORT consists of a total of		ncluding this cover s	heet. ·		
3. This report is also accompanied by A					
a. 🔀 (sent to the applicant and	to the International Bure	cau) a total of 4	sheets, as follows:		
sheets of the desc and/or sheets con Administrative In	taining rectifications auth	wings which have be orized by this Authorized	een amended and are the basis of this report ority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the		
sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.					
b. (sent to the Internation	nal Bureau only) a tot , containi adicated in the Supplement	ng a sequence listin	pe and number of electronic carrier(s)) g and/or tables related thereto, in computer b Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the		
4. This report contains indications related		s:			
Box No. I Basis of the re	port				
Box No. II Priority					
-Box No. III Non-establish	ment of opinion with rega	rd to novelty, invent	ive step and industrial applicability		
Box No. IV Lack of unity	of invention				
Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement					
No. VI Certain docum	nents cited				
Box No. VII Certain defects	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application				
Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application					
Date of submission of the demand	1	Date of completion of this report			
26 January 2004 (26.01.2004)		19 O	October 2004 (19.10.2004)		
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	F	Authorized officer			
Facsimile No.	Т	Геlephone No.			

Translation





1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is insputage of a translation familished for the purpose of: international service (under Rules 12.4) publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4) international preliminary examination (under Rule 12.4) international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3) 2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on Conference of the International application and international application and international application and international application and are not an anexed to this report; The international application as originally filed/farmished the description: pages	Box No	. I	Basis of the report							
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

Internál application No.
PCT/JP 03/13455

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
	citations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1, 3-11, 13-20	YES
	Claims		_ NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	6-8	YES
	Claims	1, 3-5, 9-11, 13-20	_ NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1, 3-11, 13-20	_ YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 11-196362 A (Casio Computer Co., Ltd.), 21
July 1999

Document 2: JP 10-124651 A (Toppan Printing Co., Ltd.), 15

May 1998

Document 3: JP 2002-176547 A (Yamaha Corporation), 21 June 2002

Document 4: JP 11-353330 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 24

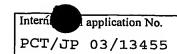
December 1999

The inventions set forth in claims 1, 3 to 5, 9 to 11 and 13 to 20 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 (paragraphs [0028] to [0184]) and document 2 (paragraphs [0028] to [0149]), document 3 (paragraphs [0004] to [0015]) or document 4 (paragraphs [0030] to [0067]).

Document 1 sets forth a terminal which synthesizes a background image of a background with a captured image which has been captured, wherein the aforementioned background image, the aforementioned captured image and mask information are obtained, and image synthesis is carried out using the mask information.

In addition, documents 2 to 4 set forth inventions which are provided with a plurality of mask regions, and which synthesize the captured image and background image

INTERNATIONAL PRELAMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



in said plurality of mask regions.

Moreover, it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to employ the techniques set forth in documents 2, 3 or 4, namely "a technique of synthesizing captured images in a plurality of regions in sequence" and "a technique of obtaining background images, captured images and mask images via a communication unit", to the device set forth in document 1.

In addition, providing a plurality of mask regions, and specifying a configuration wherein when synthesizing captured images in said plurality of mask regions, mask regions are specified to carry out synthesis automatically as an alternative to having a user specify the mask region to be synthesized, is within the scope of a mere design feature which a person skilled in the art could accomplish as necessary.

The invention set forth in claims 6 to 8 is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report, and would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art.